



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

What is meningitis?

An infection caused by a bacteria which involves the tissue around the brain and spinal cord.

Ottawa County Health Department

www.miOttawa.org

Medline Plus/National Institutes of Health

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000680.htm

How is meningitis spread?

Airborne droplets from the nose or throat of people with the bacteria.

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- High fever, headache, and stiff neck in anyone over 2 years of age.
- Nausea, vomiting, bright lights hurt the eyes, confusion, and sleepiness.
- Newborns and infants may be slow or inactive, irritable, vomiting and refuse to eat.
- Seizures

How is meningitis diagnosed?

By a laboratory test of the spinal fluid.

What is the treatment for meningitis?

Antibiotics.

Prevention:

There are vaccines to help prevent some types of bacterial meningitis. Contact your local health department for more information.

For more information on meningitis: